

Spring 2011

Foundations

Karen Brasher

Amy Cagle

Jackie Hudson

Sheri Pape

John P. Rush

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Karen Brasher, Amy Cagle, Jackie Hudson, Sheri Pape, John P. Rush, and Mississippi State University Foundation

foundations

SPRING 2011 | VOL. II NO. I

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



Spring in bloom
at Mississippi State

ANOTHER
REALM OF
GIVING

Over the past few years, giving to Mississippi State University has hit a new level. Besides overwhelming consecutive years with over \$60 million in funds raised, there is an evolving trend with our fundraising in that we are becoming stewards of more complex gifts.

A growing number of MSU's 119,000 alumni and countless friends are willing to explore making gifts out of the "norm." By this, I mean gifts beyond their typical comfort zone of simply outright cash. In anticipation, we continually train our staff to help you maximize your tax benefits and achieve your specific goals. In particular, our real estate team works hard to cultivate gifts of property and timberland for acceptance through the Bulldog Properties and the Bulldog Forest programs. The Foundation also continues to accept gifts of stock and offers a Donor-Advised Fund Program—both of which are highlighted as methods of giving in this newsletter.

Mississippi State continues to appreciate outright gifts from donors who contribute annually to keep their alumni membership current and provide assistance across the university. These contributions are a lifeline for the daily activities of Mississippi State and its more than 19,600 energetic students and dedicated faculty base.

On another bright note, we continue to be optimistic about our market returns. In a recent voluntary comparison of returns at Southeastern Conference institutions (with the exclusion of Vanderbilt University who elected not to participate) Mississippi State fared well in FY 10.

The survey measured one, three and five-year returns on investments. For the one-year period ending December 31, 2010, Mississippi State ranked a very respectable second, with only South Carolina exceeding our 13.4 percent return with its own 13.5 percent mark. For the three-year period, MSU was one of only three institutions with a positive return at 1.5 percent, which ranks tops among our SEC peers. For the five-year period, MSU reported a 5.2 percent return, nudged out of top place by Florida who had a 5.3 percent return.

Giving in support of Mississippi State University is about more than dollars and cents and investment returns. It's about improving lives through education. We, as a Foundation, have stressed that mission to prospective donors of the university for nearly 50 years. And, we are happy to find that you have been listening and our willing to place your confidence in us.

If you would like to explore giving options, don't hesitate to contact a member of our knowledgeable fundraising team. I challenge you to pursue another realm of giving in the coming years that will ultimately benefit you and Mississippi State.



John Rush

VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI

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The Mississippi State University Foundation is a nonprofit corporation organized to foster, encourage, and promote the educational purposes of the university. In providing its support and services through the pursuit of endowments and other gifts, as well as asset management, the foundation enriches and enhances the academic quality and reputation of Mississippi State University.

Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran’s status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated.



Head of the class

Madsen family feels benefits of StatePride

John Madsen and his daughter, Kimberly, weren't born into the Bulldog family. They didn't grow up ringing cowbells, but after living in Starkville for the past seven years, both now bleed maroon.

The Madsens moved to Starkville in 2003 when John was offered a job at MSU's Geosystems Research Institute. Before he made his way to Mississippi State, John received his education in biology and botany from Wheaton College and the University of Wisconsin—Madison. He previously worked for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Minnesota State University.

John's research and expertise in invasive weeds and non-native plants made him a great addition to the new institute that focuses on using technology and geo-spatial data to aid in

management of natural resources. Non-natives themselves, John and his family have made their home in Mississippi.

Although hired for research and extension roles, John found himself teaching in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences by 2009. As the university's student population grew and Mississippi State's budget could not accommodate new faculty hires, John began teaching weed biology to juniors, seniors and graduate students.

"Our department felt the impact of the state budget cuts and hiring freezes," said John, an associate extension and research professor. "I was given the opportunity to teach, and I was glad to do so. I really enjoy my students."

During this same time, John's daughter, Kimberly, was deciding on which college to attend. Kimberly's grades, involvement and dancing talents opened doors to many colleges. While she was interested in pursuing a career in dance and a liberal arts degree, she also was drawn to MSU so she could remain close to her family.

In the summer of 2010, both John and Kimberly were notified that their hard work,

efforts and talents had been acknowledged by Mississippi State. John received the Donald and Phyllis Ford Faculty Award in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, while Kimberly was offered the Mickey and Babs Holliman Legacy Scholarship. Both the award and scholarship were provided through the *StatePride* initiative.

“I really appreciate the *StatePride* faculty award,” says John. “It is nice to be recognized for doing a good job and for going beyond what is expected of us as faculty.”

While the *StatePride* award was a great reward for John, it was a great incentive for Kimberly. Once the school year began, she was on campus with her dad.

“Not only did the scholarship money play a huge part in my decision to attend Mississippi State,” says Kimberly, “it has also allowed me to focus on academics and enjoy being a college student.”

Kimberly is now a freshman at MSU and is pursuing a liberal arts degree. She has enjoyed all of her classes so much that she is having difficulty deciding which area to study.

“Living in Starkville, I thought I knew all about Mississippi State, but I didn’t expect the academic level and the instruction to be so superb,” Kimberly explains. “All my professors are engaging and accessible, and I look forward to going to each of my classes. MSU has opened a new facet that you don’t experience by just living in Starkville.”

In addition to working hard in class, Kimberly is also involved in Reformed University Fellowship, MSU’s dance company, Terpsichore, and, like her dad, works at the Geosystems Research Institute.

“Good enough is never good enough for Kimberly,” says John of his daughter. “She is very deserving of this scholarship and will contribute to the university and society through her dedication to her education and activities.”

Kimberly says her dad is deserving of the award, which is one of only 400 through the *StatePride* initiative. Faculty members who receive this honor are awarded \$2,500 for one year.

“He works insanely hard,” she comments. “I didn’t



Initiative excels past halfway mark

Generous gifts from alumni and friends of Mississippi State are fueling *StatePride* as it continues toward a \$100 million goal by the end of December 2012.

As of March, the initiative stood at nearly \$52 million raised. This amount includes matching funds provided through a special partnership with MSU Athletics over the course of the initiative.

In the current academic year, *StatePride* contributions are providing MSU students with need-based and academic scholarships. *StatePride* also creates opportunities for top performing faculty university-wide in the areas of teaching, research and service.

Please visit the MSU Foundation online at www.msufoundation.com or request a copy of our brochure to learn how you can be a part of *StatePride*. Mississippi State will continue to place an emphasis on *StatePride* priorities through 2012.

StatePride contributions given today can make possible faculty awards and scholarships for school year 2011-2012.



realize how renowned he was until I started working for one of his co-workers. He travels all around the country because he is exceptional at his job and everyone wants to hear about his unique research.”

The Madsens appreciate the support of the scholarship and faculty award and are grateful to their donors.

“I had the chance to meet Mr. and Mrs. Holliman last semester,” says Kimberly. “It was a great opportunity to thank my scholarship donors in person and tell them how much their support means to me.”

“Mississippi State alumni have an amazing sense of fidelity to their school,” says John. “While working all over the country, I run into MSU alumni and they always want to chat. It is great to be a part of this community.”

Although they weren’t raised spending Saturdays at Davis Wade Stadium, or having picnics on the historic Drill Field, John and Kimberly have become true Bulldogs.

“I really enjoy Mississippi State,” say John. “It’s a great place for research and I love going to baseball games here. It has provided great opportunities for both Kimberly and me.”



The Value of Giving

In 2009, the MSU Foundation launched a special initiative to garner support for scholarships and faculty awards. *StatePride*: An Initiative for Student and Faculty Support is a strategic fundraising plan that seeks to raise \$100 million by December 31, 2012.

The major focus of *StatePride* will be to help MSU attract exceptional students from the state and the region, and create opportunities for top performing faculty members.

For more information on *StatePride*, contact the MSU Foundation at 662-325-7000 or visit our website at www.msufoundation.com.

PROFILE: *Lindsay Linhares.*

CLASSIFICATION: Sophomore

HOMETOWN: Starkville, MS

AWARD: Otilie Schillig Leadership Scholar

"I chose Mississippi State because of the Distinguished Scholars Program. Everyone I met during my interview made me feel welcome and at home. I could see the students, faculty, staff and administrators genuinely care about each other, and all unite under the name Mississippi State."

STATEPRIDE
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Initiative for Student and Faculty Support



LOYALTY

Keeping the promise

Energy extends Promise to MSU recipients



Haley Fisackerly (center), president and CEO of Entergy Mississippi, Inc., with recipients

One hundred students are receiving Promise Awards at Mississippi State University this academic year through a \$250,000 gift funded by Entergy Mississippi, Inc.

“Mississippi State University greatly appreciates our corporate supporters like Entergy Mississippi who understand the importance of providing financial assistance to the citizens of their state,” said MSU President Mark E. Keenum. “By funding awards for 100 deserving recipients, Entergy is extending the promise of a quality education to students who are willing to work toward a college degree.”

MSU Promise is a university-designed program started in 2006. The program helps students in economically challenged situations

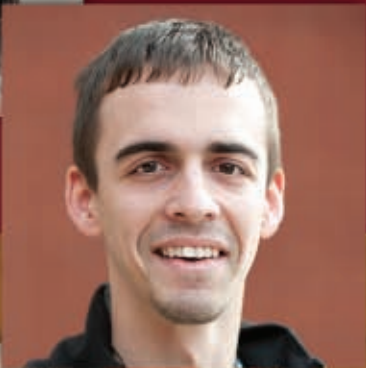
meet tuition expenses and receive institutional support needed to ensure their continued success. The program provides scholarships to Mississippi residents who meet certain financial and academic criteria. Each year, gifts from private sources are used to fund the awards.

“Any student who dreams of a college education and has the grades to make it happen shouldn’t miss out because of a lack of funding,” said Haley Fisackerly, president and CEO of Entergy Mississippi, Inc.

Fisackerly, an MSU management alumnus, continued, “We’re pleased and proud to help close the financial gap. With this gift, we hope to prepare the workforce of the future.”

Promise Awards fund a student’s base tuition in the fall and spring semesters, minus all federal, state, institutional and other grants or scholarships. Recipients are eligible as long as they make satisfactory progress toward an MSU degree.

The gift from Entergy Mississippi is part of



the company’s Destination Education initiative, which seeks to improve educational opportunities for Mississippians from early childhood through higher learning. Entergy Mississippi, Inc. is a subsidiary of Entergy Corp., an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations.

Including those recipients assisted by Entergy Mississippi, Mississippi State awarded nearly 140 Promise Awards to students for the current school year. With the help of the university’s Learning Center, these students will also get a helping hand in their studies with the Promise Student Support Program. The program provides academic counseling, course-progress monitoring and networking opportunities to assist these recipients with their transition to the university.

Anna Dill, director of the Learning Center in the College of Education, is proud of the efforts the university makes to ensure the success of Promise students through financial and academic assistance.

“The Promise Awards are wonderful for students who deserve the chance to have a quality education, and the complementing Promise Student

Marty Friend, student support coordinator, transitions Promise students into college life.

Support Program provides intervention strategies to keep recipients focused on their studies,” Dill said.

Marty Friend, coordinator of the support program, encourages Promise students to use the Learning Center as a resource over the course of their college career.

“Interaction with the support program, even after these students have completed their obligatory three-hour credit course, helps them transition into the college environment. With our assistance, we can provide guidance in helping meet the demands of their course work,” she said.

MSU Promise Awards benefit from contributions of any amount. Visit www.msufoundation.com for giving information, or www.sfa.msstate.edu/promise for program criteria.

A guiding hand

*MSU Foundation names 2011
officers, incoming members*



ASHFORD



BERRY



BRANNAN



CRANE



DULANEY



GIPSON



GORDY



LINTON



MASON



MONTGOMERY



NUSZ



ROUSE



SHACKOULS

The Mississippi State University Foundation has elected new members for its 44-seat board of directors for 2011 and appointed officers to a second term.

The 2010 officers returning for a one-year appointment are James J. “Jim” Rouse and Bobby Shackouls, both of Houston, Texas, and D. Hines Brannan of Atlanta, Ga. Rouse will serve as president, while Shackouls and Brannan are vice president and treasurer, respectively. Their new appointments began January 1.

Rouse is a retired vice president of ExxonMobil and a 1962 management graduate. Shackouls is retired chairman, president and CEO of Burlington Resources, Inc., and a 1972 chemical engineering graduate. Brannan is a retired partner with Accenture who earned an industrial engineering degree in 1970, and an MBA the following year.



Rush



Easley

Rounding out board leadership are John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni who serves as board CEO, and David Easley, executive director of finance for the MSU Foundation, who serves as chief financial officer for the board.

Board members are traditionally appointed for a three-year term. Individuals beginning their inaugural term in 2011 include: Tommy Dulaney of Meridian, Joe F.

Gordy of Brewton, Ala., and Thomas B. “Tommy” Nusz of The Woodlands, Texas.

Dulaney is president and CEO of Structural Steel Services, Inc., and a friend of the university. Gordy is a 1963 horticulture graduate who owns

and directs Gordy Development and Natural Decorations, Inc. Nusz is a 1982 petroleum engineering graduate, who is president and CEO of Oasis Petroleum, Inc.

Members may return to the board after vacating their seat for a one-year period. Those returning for three-year appointments are five Mississippi residents and two out-of-state residents. They are James K. Ashford of Highlands, N.C.; William B. Berry of Katy, Texas; Johnny Crane of Fulton; E.M. “Hoot” Gipson of Meridian; Rusty Linton of Columbus; Don Mason of Gulfport; and C.R. “Bob” Montgomery of Canton.

Ashford is a 1958 accounting graduate and the retired president and CEO of CASE International. He steered Mississippi State University’s first capital campaign.

Berry earned two degrees in petroleum engineering from MSU, a bachelor’s in 1974 and a master’s in 1976. He is a retired executive vice president for ConocoPhillips.

Crane is the retired CEO of F.L. Crane and Sons, Inc., and Gipson is CEO of Gipson Steel, Inc. The two are longtime friends of the university.

Linton is a 1980 biochemistry graduate and orthopedic surgeon with Columbus Orthopaedic Clinic P.A. He also is a team physician for MSU Athletics.

A 1964 business administration and industrial engineering graduate, Mason earned an MBA the following year. He is a consultant and the retired vice president of Mississippi Power Co.

Montgomery has served several terms on the board. He is a 1961 marketing graduate and partner with Montgomery, McGraw and Collins, PLLC.

Founded in 1962, the MSU Foundation administers the majority of the institution’s fundraising activities and endowment funds. The Foundation’s current endowment stands at approximately \$300 million.

A complete list of the MSU Foundation board of directors may be found on the inside back cover of this newsletter.

Enthusiastic support

Cleveland utilizes ExxonMobil match



Nina and Randy Cleveland at Super Bowl XLV in Arlington, Texas

Randy Cleveland is an engineering alumnus who has passionately answered the call to support his university, and his response brings additional support from the company he has proudly served for nearly three decades.

When Randy was asked to assist Mississippi State University financially, he took advantage of all resources available, including matching funds, to make a lasting impact. ExxonMobil, Randy's employer, matches employee contributions to educational institutions through its Exxon USA Co. Foundation. The company's three-to-one matching gift program tripled the size of Randy's initial commitment to Mississippi State.

"I wanted to give back to Mississippi State because of my fondness for the school and the education it provided me. Fortunately, generous

matching dollars from ExxonMobil enabled me to further assist MSU with its priorities," said Cleveland, a company vice president. "It was like the icing on a cake to structure my gift in a way that was also tax efficient."

In the 27 years Randy has worked with ExxonMobil, he has been stationed across Louisiana, Texas, and abroad in London and Scotland. The petroleum engineering graduate began his career with Exxon in New Orleans following graduation from MSU. He is currently vice president for integration with ExxonMobil-XTO Energy in Fort Worth, Texas.

"One of the many benefits of my job with ExxonMobil is definitely the company's matching gift program," Randy said. "Many individuals could not make sizeable commitments without the program, and I encourage my fellow alumni to inquire about supporting MSU this way."

Randy is one of six MSU alumni employed by ExxonMobil who created an endowed fund in the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering. The ExxonMobil Alumni Endowed Professorship



Cleveland displays Distinguished Fellow award.

requires a minimum of \$500,000 to reach endowment level.

Continued gifts from Randy, and his fellow ExxonMobil alumni, are growing the fund over time.

In order to maximize his gift

for the professorship, Randy used what he calls a “three-prong approach to giving.” He outlined a five-year plan with the help of matching funds, utilized MSU’s Donor-Advised Fund Program, and made a gift of stock.

“I consulted with my financial adviser and he encouraged me to explore the MSU Donor-Advised Fund Program. The program is optimum because it allowed my wife, Nina, and me to achieve what we wanted in a relatively easy manner.”

The Donor-Advised Fund presents an opportunity for a donor to make an irrevocable gift, and decide later on distributions from the fund. Randy and Nina created a Donor-Advised Fund with stock. This is tax efficient since the

donation is based on the stock’s current value rather than the actual cost of its acquisition and no capital gain is realized.

“There are no fees associated with the MSU Donor-Advised Fund Program. It offers great flexibility, and we received a tax deduction in the year we made our gift,” explained Randy.

Placing an emphasis on assisting his alma mater with his time and resources is important to Randy. He has been honored as a Distinguished Fellow for the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering, and has devoted his time as a speaker for the college’s Hunter Henry Lecture Series.

Originally from Newton County, Miss., Randy grew up enjoying math and science and was valedictorian of his high school graduating class. He was always very active in sports and remains a Bulldog sports fan.

Randy and Nina enjoy traveling often, and attend collegiate and professional sporting events when possible. The couple married before Randy graduated from MSU in 1983. Nina attended the University of Alabama and is originally from Demopolis, Ala. They reside in Fort Worth.

Donor-Advised Funds: Worth the exploration

The MSU Donor-Advised Fund Program offers individuals an effective way to achieve their tax goals by “parking” their funds for later distribution.

The Donor-Advised Fund is a separate, nonprofit corporation modeled after similar programs offered by some community foundations and brokerage firms.

The donor makes an irrevocable gift to the Donor-Advised Fund, and then is able to make recommendations to the program’s distribution committee regarding which charitable entities might

benefit from the gift. These may include, but are not limited to, Mississippi State University Foundation. This program offers the donor maximum flexibility in timing the charitable gifts.

There are no fees associated with the establishment or management of a Donor-Advised Fund. For more information, contact David Easley, the MSU Foundation’s chief financial officer, at deasley@foundation.msstate.edu or 662.325.7000.



Top: John, Steve and Helen Hawkins
Above: John with Claudia

Taking root in the hearts of others

John Steven Hawkins

In many cultures, trees are a symbolic representation of life. Trees signify stability, strength, protection and permanence. When considering the life and legacy of MSU alumnus John Steven Hawkins, his family believes a tree is a fitting illustration.

“Trees are symbolic of many things my brother was, and continues to be to those who knew him well,” said his sister, Helen Hawkins.

John’s family described him as a strong man, full of life. He was bold, with a magnetic spirit. He was also a devoted Bulldog. From the first

time he set foot on campus, he knew Mississippi State would be his university of choice.

The Germantown, Tenn., native came to MSU as a freshman in 2001. John quickly became involved in several campus organizations such as Delta Chi fraternity and Army ROTC.

“Our son had a terrific sense of humor, an abundance of energy, a smile that lit up a room, and a deep love for God, family, friends and country,” said his mother, Claudia Hawkins.

As a student involved with ROTC, John traveled to the Gulf Coast during Hurricane Katrina to serve with the Mississippi National Guard.

“His passion was to serve others and his country, which he did quietly,” continued Claudia.

In 2008, John graduated from Mississippi



State with a Bachelor of Science in communication. He remained in Starkville and worked for the Veranda Restaurant, while in the process of cross branching to the United States Air Force.

Apart from his love for Mississippi State and his country, John also was very devoted to his family. “Team Hawkins,” as he called them—his father, Steve, mother, Claudia, and sister, Helen.

“A strong team knows its members well. It runs like a well-oiled machine, anticipates each other’s moves, and understands how each member thinks,” said Helen. “That’s how the four of us operated as a family.”

Unfortunately, on May 6, 2009, “Team Hawkins” lost their most valuable player when John’s life was cut short by a tragic car accident. He was 26 years old.

“Our team is readjusting, and we’ve been forced to learn how to operate with a position that can never be filled,” said Helen. “It’s been a painful struggle, but it’s important that Team Hawkins continues to take the field and play the very best we can.”

The life and legacy John left behind has taken deep root in the lives of everyone he knew. His memory has been planted in the hearts of those who loved him most.

“John was a more devout Christian than any of us realized,” said his father, Steve Hawkins. “We have received letters from people all over the country who were touched by his friendship and support.”

To honor his life, the Hawkins family chose to place a lasting memorial on campus. This spring, an autumn red leaf maple tree was planted on the Drill Field near the Colvard Student Union. Their gift provides a permanent monument centrally located on the campus John loved so dearly.

“The time John spent at MSU was one of the happiest in his life,” stated his mother. “Because of his pride for MSU, as well as the Mississippi Army National Guard, we believe planting a tree on the Drill Field will be a lasting and meaningful tribute to him.”

Memorial trees are one of many options available for parents, alumni and friends to make a meaningful gift that perpetuates the aesthetics and beauty of Mississippi State. Contributions can be made to the university’s campus beautification fund to name fountains, benches, plantings or other outdoor structures. Gifts may be given in honor or memory of a family member, friend, classmate or mentor.

“John would be honored to have his life and time spent at MSU remembered in such a wonderful way,” said Steve.

Helen added, “A tree can live forever, giving many generations the opportunity to enjoy it—just like the stories that will be told about John.”

John Hawkins will never have the chance to visit his beloved alma mater again. However, the memory of his life and love for his family, friends, university and country will be remembered through a monument in his honor.

To learn more about making a gift to campus beautification, please contact Barbie Hampel, director of annual giving, at 662.325.5975 or bhampel@foundation.msstate.edu.



A Detailed Arrangement

Gordy establishes endowed faculty positions in horticulture

A 1963 alumnus of Mississippi State University has created two endowments to ensure the future of floral management and horticulture education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Joe Gordy, of Brewton, Ala., and his wife, Carol, established the Joe and Carol Gordy Endowed Chair in Horticulture and the Joe and Carol Gordy Endowed Professorship in Horticulture in a bequest through his will. Both faculty positions will be used to attract and retain top performing

faculty members who exemplify the university's mission of teaching, research and service.

The Forest, Miss., native began his career in retail floristry in Starkville after receiving a degree in horticulture. As a student, he won several floral design competitions and design awards that drew attention to his knowledge and expertise of flowers and design.

In 1978, Knud Nielsen Co., a leading importer and manufacturer of dried flowers, invited Gordy to design several pieces for a wholesale florist show in Dallas. The dried designs were damaged during transit, and Gordy was flown to Dallas to repair the arrangements and attend the show. Several weeks later, Gordy was offered a position as director of product development at the Evergreen, Ala., facility.

"This opened the door for my career in floral design and product development," said Gordy. "The opportunity to work at Knud Nielsen Co. prepared me for a lifelong career in retail floristry."

Gordy's passion for flowers stems from childhood days spent on a farm. He grew up working in the garden with his family, and drew inspiration from the surrounding environment and beauty of Mother Nature.

"It was a love I was born with," he commented. "And I managed to get steered in the right direction to turn my passion into a career."

A love of nature and creative ability helped Gordy succeed as a floral designer. Among his many accomplishments, he was invited in 1984, 1986 and 1987 to decorate the White House at Christmastime for the Ronald Reagan administration. He also served as one of three international judges at the 93rd Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., as well as one of six floral design experts asked to judge the 1993 World Cup of Floral Design in Stockholm, Sweden.

Through the years, Gordy has been involved with several professional organizations such as the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), where he served as a member of the board of directors, as well as national vice president and national president. Additionally, he has been a member of The AIFD Foundation board of directors.

In the early 1990s, Gordy and his wife purchased Natural Decorations, Inc. (NDI), a manufacturer of fine fabric floral designs and botanical reproductions located in Evergreen, Ala.

As president and director of product development, Gordy helped bring NDI into the forefront of the retail floristry industry.

"As a designer, my goal was to develop botanical floral reproductions that mimicked the same colors and textures found in nature," said Gordy.

NDI moved the headquarters and production facility to Brewton, Ala., in 1999, where Gordy remained president of the company until he retired.

Currently, NDI is led by Gordy's wife Carol, a Dublin, Texas, native, who serves as chairman and CEO. He remains active with the company as a director, but devotes most of his time to

running the couple's other business, Gordy Development, Inc.

With their gift to Mississippi State, the Gordys hope to enrich the plant and soil sciences department by providing opportunities for outstanding faculty members. Both endowments will provide funds for creative research, teaching and outreach efforts within the department, thus improving the scope and mission of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"The endowments created by the Gordys at Mississippi State will strengthen the university's stance as the center for floral design education," said Jim DelPrince, professor of plant and soil sciences. "Joe is a creative talent and has a big heart."

The Gordys' commitment to the university is a tribute to the education he received at MSU.

"I felt like I wanted to give back," stated Gordy. "A lot of the things I have achieved have been because of MSU. I have memories of people who pushed me along when I didn't want to be pushed, and our hope is to help future students and horticulturists achieve their dreams."

In recent years, Gordy has been recognized by Mississippi State University and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as an Alumni Fellow and College Alumnus of the Year. The Gordys also participated in an "Artist in Residence" program with horticulture students, which centered on time/motion studies they conducted in the production of permanent floral designs.

"Both Joe and Carol have made a tremendous impact on the industry of floral design," continued DelPrince. "Their contributions to the industry and to Mississippi State will continue to influence future designers and florists for many years to come."

Gordy is active on the Brewton Tree and Beautification Board, an organization that seeks to improve the landscape of the city of Brewton by planting trees and flowers, and assisting in street and park renovation projects. He enjoys growing orchids, gardening and traveling with his wife Carol.

Nature's call

Bulldog graduate
remembered for his
conservation efforts



As with many children, catching that first fish is a memorable accomplishment. For 5-year-old Sam Hamilton, it was the beginning of a deep appreciation of wildlife and the outdoors that culminated in a lifelong conservation career and a scholarship in his memory.

The son of a career Air Force officer and his wife, Sam was born in Tokyo, Japan, but lived most of his first 20 years in Starkville. He developed a love of nature with his father, Lt. Col. Samuel Davis Hamilton Jr., who was a professor of air science with Mississippi State University's

Air Force ROTC. Together, they fished the nearby Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, and the youngster developed a fondness for the area.

A decade later, Hamilton took the first step in his conservation career as a Youth Conservation Corps employee at the refuge. He learned to band wood ducks and Canadian geese, build waterfowl pens, and understand the importance of managing wildlife habitats. His ties with the refuge continued as he graduated from Starkville High School and enrolled as a student at Mississippi State University.

After graduating from MSU in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, Hamilton began his long career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He and his wife, Becky, lived in many parts of the country, but settled in Atlanta, Ga., when he became director of the Southeast Region.

Hamilton became national director of the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2009 after being asked to consider the appointment on several occasions. As a federal agency head, he oversaw 128 national wildlife refuges, including Noxubee, and protected more than 350 federally listed threatened and endangered species.

Hamilton passed away in 2010 at the age of 54. His connection with the east-central Mississippi refuge and with his alma mater is now perpetual. A scholarship endowment in Mississippi State University's College of Forest Resources serves as a tribute to him.

The Sam D. Hamilton Friends of Noxubee Refuge Graduate Conservation Scholarship salutes Hamilton and his prestigious career. The scholarship is funded with contributions from friends, industry associates and organizations.

"Sam Hamilton was an exceptional wildlife biologist with profound vision, and he was an ardent supporter of Mississippi State," said Bruce Leopold, professor and head of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture. "I can't think of a more fitting tribute to such an extraordinary professional than to establish this scholarship to support graduate student research, something that Sam held very dear to his heart."

Friends of Noxubee Refuge initiated the scholarship in honor of Hamilton's tireless efforts and diligent service to refuges throughout the country. The nonprofit organization, which is dedicated to conserving natural resources through volunteer work and fundraising efforts, made a cornerstone contribution. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., contributed an additional \$25,000 for the scholarship.

As a legacy to Hamilton, the scholarship will be awarded to graduate students who demonstrate efforts in conservation volunteer work and to those who have served internships on National Wildlife Refuges. The award commemorates Hamilton's encouragement of students seeking graduate

degrees in the natural resource conservation field.

"Friends of Noxubee Refuge wanted to establish this tribute for Sam because of the wonderful qualities he possessed as an individual and because of his noteworthy conservation efforts throughout his lifetime," said Henry Sansing, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge manager. "The scholarship will have a positive impact on the future of natural resources by producing conservation-minded professionals."

During his lifetime, Hamilton worked diligently to bring conservationists, hunters, anglers, landowners, business people, and state and federal agencies together to conserve and enhance what he thought were treasured wildlife resources. He was dedicated to conserving the nation's natural heritage. From large-scale ecosystem restoration projects such as the Florida Everglades to private landowner safe harbor agreements for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, Hamilton's philosophy was that only through working together could citizens conserve and sustain natural places and wildlife.

"Sam would be very happy to know the scholarship was established since it aligns with his mission during his professional career," said sister Dr. Lucy Senter, university veterinarian and director of MSU Laboratory Animal Resources.

"Despite the fact that Sam had great success in his career, he never lost touch with his Southern roots and the Noxubee Refuge," added Senter, who is also a clinical professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine Department of Clinical Sciences. "He possessed a great desire to protect the natural treasures of our state and nation."

Throughout his life, Hamilton maintained his connection with the state of Mississippi and with the town he fondly called home. He frequently visited Starkville and his mother, Mary Hamilton. He lost his father earlier in life. Although Hamilton lived in Georgia for many years, he instilled his love of the MSU Bulldogs in his sons, Sam and Clay, and his grandson, Davis.

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*Director of Development
for Real Estate*
(662) 325-0643
jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu

Jeff Little
*Director of Development
for the Bulldog Forest*
(662) 324-8151
jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu

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Professor gives encouragement for agriculture teaching careers

Long after Jacquelyn P. Deeds retires from MSU, she will continue impacting the university and its students in a special way. A gift from Deeds has created an endowed scholarship which will help ensure others are drawn into teaching as a career.

By funding a scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and including Mississippi State University in her will, she hopes to inspire others to follow her into what she feels is a rewarding career.

Deeds holds teaching close to her heart, and she has never regretted her decision to remain hands-on with academics. She also understands first-hand the financial burden a college degree can impose on some students and their families.

“Over the years, I’ve seen many of my students struggle to work more than one job, study and have a home life,” she said. “So, I believe giving them the financial edge of a scholarship will help them excel in academics.”

Deeds, who is a professor of agricultural information science and education, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the School of Human Sciences. She also coordinates student and beginning teacher programs, as well as supervises student teaching and field experiences.

In her native Oregon, Deeds grew up just outside of Drain, near Eugene. She began her education in a small community elementary school, and would eventually become the first woman to teach high school agriculture in her home state.



Deeds

Deeds earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agricultural education from Oregon State University. She earned her doctorate in agricultural education at The Ohio State University in 1985 before joining the Mississippi State faculty.

“I have had the opportunity to teach most of the high school agriculture teachers in Mississippi as either as undergraduate or graduate students,” she said. “Since my whole career has been academic-based, it makes sense to me to promote teaching agriculture as a career to others.”

The Dr. Jacquelyn Deeds Endowed Scholarship in the School of Human Sciences at Mississippi State will assist full-time undergraduate students majoring in agricultural information sciences. Recipients shall be students who intend to teach in secondary education.

“Future recipients of the scholarship may never know me personally, but I believe they will appreciate my memory and my desire to do this very personal thing,” Deeds said.

MSU names Giles auditorium in honor of longtime supporters

Mississippi State's College of Architecture, Art and Design recently dedicated the newly renovated Giles Hall auditorium in honor of Robert and Freda Harrison.

The Robert and Freda Harrison Auditorium is named for the Madison couple who have shared a 30-year relationship with Mississippi State and the architecture school. The auditorium has been a major campus venue for activities since 1985. A gift from the Harrisons made possible a complete renovation of the auditorium.

"The college gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Harrisons," said college Dean Jim West. "It is a fitting tribute to recognize them in this manner for the countless times they have served as volunteer ambassadors of the college."

Robert Harrison is a retired architect, consultant and founding partner of Jackson-based JH&H Architects. He is currently a fellow in the American Institute of Architects, a fellow in

the Construction Specifications Institute, and a former national board member with the organizations. He also is a past president of both Mississippi chapters.

"As president of the AIA, Robert Harrison was instrumental in assisting Mississippi State with its quest to become the only university in the state with an architecture school," West said. "From a young age, he wanted to become an architect, but had no direct path to complete his dream in our state."

As an adjunct faculty member, Harrison was the first teacher for the fifth-year program in Jackson. He also has been a longtime member of the school's advisory board.

Earlier gifts by the Harrisons also support an endowed fund and a visiting lecture series, both which also carry their names. The lecture series regularly draws nationally distinguished designers to serve as lecturers each semester.

Freda Harrison holds life memberships in garden clubs at the state, regional and national levels. Over the years, she has supported horticulture and environmental design efforts through MSU scholarships.



Robert and Freda Harrison, left and center, with Jim West

CVM scholarship memorializes Columbus couple's beloved pet

Stephen and Dava Imes will always remember their cat, Mac, as being one of a kind. The Columbus couple is ensuring his legacy through a scholarship in Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Stephen first met Mac nearly a decade ago, and he immediately knew the cat was special. Mac was a Maine coon cat, a breed known for its large size, long coat and intelligence.

"Mac talked to me in his own way and we developed a kind of language. We understood each other completely," Stephen said. "He used different sounds to communicate what he wanted and I responded."

The Imes' local veterinarian referred Mac to MSU's veterinary college when he became ill with a heart condition known as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. After his first visit, Mac quickly became known for his wonderful personality.

"I remember the first time I saw Mac," said CVM intern Dr. Krista Gazzola. "Mr. Imes carried Mac in under his arm. He was a calm, obedient cat and one of the sweetest I have ever met."

Gazzola and fourth-year veterinary student Hanna Cook cared for Mac during his final hours.

"As sick as he was, he would still 'talk' to us when we were caring for him. He really let his personality shine through," Gazzola said.

Stephen got to know the clinicians and staff through his many trips for testing and treatment during Mac's illness. He and Dava are thankful for the expert care and compassion Mac was given.

"We saw a lot of veterinarians and



veterinary students during Mac's visits," Stephen said. "Each one of them treated us with respect and gave Mac the kind of care someone would give their own cat."

After Mac's death, Stephen and Dava decided to honor the veterinarians who cared for him through the Mac, Stephen and Dava Imes Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a junior or senior full-time veterinary student, and priority will be given to individuals who show an interest in feline medicine.

"We want to honor the doctors and staff who cared for Mac," Stephen said. "I'll never forget the exceptional care he received."

The couple hopes the MSU scholarship will also help keep Mac's memory alive.

"Mac deserves the recognition," Stephen said. "You just don't run across a cat like him but once in a lifetime. He was my buddy and he won't be forgotten."

Significant gift establishes Lee Chair in business college

A newly created endowed position will enhance the work of the College of Business and honor the memory of former Jackson area resident Jack R. Lee.

The Jack R. Lee Endowed Chair in Financial Institutions and Consumer Finance is the result of a \$1.5 million anonymous gift and named for the late business executive who died in 2008. The chair will be supported by an endowment from which earnings will provide a salary supplement and additional financial support for activities of the chair holder.

The Lee Chair is one of five newly endowed positions created through the university's *StatePride* initiative.

"The chair will provide an extraordinary opportunity for MSU students to gain real world insights from a nationally recognized professor, and it will serve as a significant resource for the state of Mississippi and nation regarding research, consultation and outreach in the increasingly complicated financial sector," said Mike Highfield, associate professor and head of finance and economics.

Lee concluded a successful career in finance when he retired in 1998 as president, chairman and CEO of Tower Loan. He also owned American Silver Dollars and assembled high ranking coin collections. He was a past president of the Mississippi Consumer Finance Association and a member of the board of directors for the American Financial Services Association.



Lee

After beginning his college education at then-Hinds Junior College, Lee attended MSU. He earlier attended Jefferson Military School and was a graduate of Forest Hill High School.

"My dad had many noteworthy accomplishments over the course of his life, among them playing an instrumental role in crafting the law whereby the industry converted from broker-based to a direct lender-based industry," recalled son Francis Lee, a Rankin County resident. "We are exceptionally pleased an endowed chair honors his memory and his outstanding contributions to the industry."

Jack R. Lee and his wife Mary Katherine Lewis married in 1965. In addition to Francis Lee, the family patriarch had two other sons, David Ray Lee and John Russell Lee. Mary Katherine Lee also resides in Rankin County.

Three join Foundation efforts in key development positions

Several Mississippi State graduates have joined the MSU Foundation as fundraisers. Jimmy Kight, Wesley P. “Wes” Gordon and Perry King “P.K.” Thomas IV began fundraising roles for the areas of business, student affairs and engineering, respectively, in the latter part of 2010.



Kight

Kight is assistant director of development for Mississippi State’s College of Business. He comes to the business college from the university’s Office of Admissions and Scholarships, where he

served since 2007 as a regional admissions counselor for Jackson and the surrounding area.

In his new role, Kight works with veteran fundraiser and alumnus Jack McCarty, the business college’s director of development, on fundraising and alumni activities for the large academic unit. A Philadelphia, Miss., native, Kight holds a Bachelor of Arts in communication with an emphasis in public relations and broadcasting from MSU.

Fellow MSU alumnus Gordon began his new duties as director of development for the Division of Students Affairs in mid-October. The division is a major university unit responsible for enrollment services, housing, financial aid, health services, student organizations, counseling, police,



Gordon

recreational sports, and other student service functions.

A 2004 MSU physical education graduate, Gordon earned a Master of Science degree in sport administration from

the university the following year. Most recently, Gordon was director of development for the University of West Alabama based in Livingston, Ala., where he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the institution’s UWA Foundation. He is a native of Columbus.



Thomas

Also joining Mississippi State as a fundraiser is Thomas, who serves as assistant director of development for the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering. He assists Bennett Evans, the college’s development director, with fundraising activities.

A Tupelo native, Thomas holds a 2003 communication degree from MSU and earned a master’s in physical education and sport administration in 2008. For the past two years, he resided in Corinth and worked as a district executive for Yocona Area Council of Boy Scouts of America. Prior to that, he served for two years as an admissions counselor for Mississippi State.

Hines and Linda Brannan



THEIR HISTORY: Alumnus Hines Brannan and his wife, Linda, are residents of Atlanta, Ga., who maintain their connection to Mississippi State University through various activities. They are among the university's most dedicated alumni.

Hines is a retired managing partner with Accenture. During his tenure, Hines worked with a number of Fortune 500 companies on their mergers and acquisitions, systems integration and business process outsourcing initiatives. He holds two degrees from MSU—a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering he earned in 1970, and an MBA he earned the following year. Hines currently serves in his second term as treasurer of the MSU Foundation board of directors.

Linda is a fellow MSU graduate who received her degree in elementary education in 1972. She taught for six years in Houston, Texas. She and Hines have two children, Davis and Kara.

THEIR GIVING: Over the years, the Bulldog couple has supported MSU with gifts for business, engineering and athletics. The university will one day receive proceeds from an IRA they designated for scholarships. Future recipients will be residents of Mississippi and graduates of a Mississippi high school. Hines and Linda are Mississippi natives who hail from Woodville and Jackson, respectively.

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